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NEWS RELEASE

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LEGISLATURE APPROVES ADDITIONAL PRESERVATION EFFORTS IN RIVERHEAD AND SHELTER ISLAND

Suffolk County Legislator Edward Romaine is pleased to announce legislative approval of several environmentally sensitive properties in the town of Riverhead as well as Shelter Island.

The Delalio Sod Farm has grown and supplied turf grass for nearly fifty years to many well-known clients, including Central Park, the Bronx Zoo Conservancy, and Gracie Mansion. Yesterday at the Legislature's General Meeting, a measure authorizing the county to purchase the development rights to this 55-acre farm for \$3.27 million was approved, keeping this farm preserved in perpetuity.

Also approved yesterday was a planning steps resolution for the Reeve-Bayview Farm in Riverhead. Situated east of Church Lane just south of Main Road in the hamlet of Aquebogue, this 13.4-acre parcel is part of the larger "Bayview Farm" operated by the Reeve family; 71-acres of this 100-acre farm have had development right previously purchased by the county. Legislator Romaine was pleased to sponsor this important legislation, which, when finalized, will complete preservation of this treasured farm.

Legislators also considered a new planning steps resolution for a portion of the North Fork Preserve property. Although the county previously approved a resolution authorizing planning steps for the entire 300-acre property, it was necessary to adopt a new resolution that identified the "active recreation" component for the 180-acre southern portion. Doing so will allow the county to move forward with plans of developing a county park with camping facilities, tennis courts, ball fields, swimming and kayaking.

Lastly, the legislature approved a bill authorizing the purchase of farmland development rights to the Sylvester Manor Farm located on Shelter Island. Sylvester Manor has remained in the same family since 1852, and not only does the farm grow a variety of vegetables, it is also an educational, historical, and cultural institution. Once comprising all of Shelter Island, today the Manor encompasses a circa 1735 Manor House and an 1810 wind-powered gristmill made almost entirely from local trees.

These resolutions now go before the County Executive for his signature.